



News from

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TANCREDO CLAIMS VICTORY IN SUCCESSFUL DHS IMPLEMENTATION OF AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

*Tancredo said, "The next positive step is to use this proven
technology along our entire border."*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Tom Tancredo (CO-06) today claimed a partial victory as Department of Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson released outstanding statistics illustrating the effectiveness of aerial technology in enhancing border security. Tancredo has touted this technology for some time as an effective means to stem the growing tidal wave of illegals crossing into the U.S.

"While this is just a partial victory on the road to securing our nation's borders, it is a step in the right direction," said Tancredo, Chair of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus. "Now that we've proven that this method works, I think it's time to push for nation-wide use, especially with an approaching election and the threat of another attack looming over voters."

In a release by the Department of Homeland Security¹ Undersecretary Hutchinson explained that since the DHS began the Arizona Border Initiative (ABC) just six months ago, border enforcement officials have apprehended more than 351,700 illegal aliens, and increased the apprehension rate for human smugglers by 68 percent. He also reported that law enforcement officials have increased the amount of narcotics seizures from 165,057 lbs. in 2003 to a whopping 359,604 lbs. during the same period in 2004.

"The ABC initiative has done what many naysayers said it could not. The hard work of DHS officers and the deployment of cutting edge technology has made America safer, and saved lives on both sides of the border," said Tancredo, referencing the doubling of illegals saved in the unforgiving desert to 697 lives. "It isn't perfect, but this initiative has proven to be a rare success story in an ongoing effort that hasn't seen many."

The ABC initiative equips border agents with Unmanned Ariel Vehicles (UAVs), two additional helicopters, and provides additional air surveillance, interdiction and law enforcement support to the Air and Marine Operations division of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

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¹ http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0521.xml